

BOOK REVIEW

The Oxford Handbook of Zooarchaeology. By UMBERTO ALBARELLA with MAURO RIZZETTO, HANNAH RUSS, KIM VICKERS, and SARAH VINER-DANIELS, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. Pp. xxii + 839. Hardcover, \$150.00. ISBN 978-0-19-968647.

Zooarchaeology, the study of archaeological faunal remains, informs our understanding of the economic and cultural roles that animals played in past societies. Although the field has its origins in the nineteenth century, it has evolved substantially since then. Rather than simply tallying species present and age at death, recent zooarchaeological research is interdisciplinary and concerned with questions of broader archaeological and societal impact.¹

This volume provides an overview of world zooarchaeology and covers a variety of geographical regions (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Oceania), cultural periods (e.g. Romans, Maya, Incas), approaches (e.g. morphometric, paleogenetic, or stable isotopic analysis), and themes (e.g. historical ecology, land use, sedentism, migration, ritual, cultural contact). Written by internationally renowned experts, the essays in this book are divided into seven parts. The first part, “Part I: Introduction,” consists solely of the introductory chapter (Chapter 1) written by the lead editor, Umberto Albarella. This chapter describes the discipline of zooarchaeology, its methods and approaches, as well as its international scope and future directions.

The remaining parts are organized by geographical region. “Part II: Europe” is the lengthiest part (14 chapters). The presented material spans a large swath of time, from a discussion of humans and mammals in Upper Paleolithic Russia (Chapter 2, Mietje Germonpré and Mikhail V. Sablin) to Early Modern evidence of marine resources in Scotland (Chapter 11, Dale Serjeantson) and animals in

¹ For example, compare the “Animal Bones” chapter by David S. Reese in Robert Leighton (ed.) 1993. *The Protohistoric Settlement on the Cittadella*. Princeton, 91–96 with “From Fish Bones to Fishermen: Views from the Sanctuary of Poseidon at Kalaureia” by Dimitra Mylona in Donald C. Haggis and Carla M. Antonaccio (eds.) 2015. *Classical Archaeology in Context: Theory and Practice in Excavation in the Greek World*. Berlin, 385–418. The former is essentially an inventory of faunal remains, while the latter considers material, biological, textual, and ethnographic evidence in order to holistically reconstruct fishing and culinary practices at the site.

urban contexts in England (Chapter 14, Terry O'Connor). Likewise, the essays are widespread in their geographical coverage, as this part includes case studies from Russia, the Carpathian Basin, the Alpine and Baltic regions, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Iceland, Greenland, Scotland, England, Ireland, Portugal, and France.

The other Old World sections are substantially shorter than Part II. Albarella addresses this overrepresentation in the Preface, stating that the geographical "coverage is not entirely even, as this reflects intensity of research in different areas" (viii). Nevertheless, "Part III: Asia" contains case studies from Anatolia, China, central Asia, Japan, southeast Asia, and the Levant. These chapters explore topics ranging from the emergence of animal husbandry in Early Neolithic Anatolia (Chapter 16, Joris Peteres, Nadja Pöllath, and Benjamin S. Arbuckle) to an overview of zooarchaeological inquiry of the early historic periods in the southern Levant (Chapter 23, Justin E. Lev-Tov and Sarah Witcher Kansa). "Part IV: Africa," on the other hand, consists of case studies from Sudan, Egypt, and South Africa, but primarily concentrates on larger regions, such as north Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, southern Africa, and west Africa. Of particular note is Chapter 30 (Michael MacKinnon) and Chapter 31 (Adam R. Heinrich), both of which focus on the ways in which zooarchaeology can inform our understanding of the processes of colonization and acculturation.

Parts V and VI discuss North and South America respectively. "Part V: North America" considers the pre-contact northwest coast (Chapter 32, Gregory G. Monks), agricultural economies in the southwest (Chapter 33, Rebecca M. Dean), bison hunting in the west (Chapter 34, John D. Speth), hunter-gatherer strategies in Mexico (Chapter 35, Joaquín Arroyo-Cabrales and Eduardo Corona-M), aquatic resource exploitation by the Olmec (Chapter 36, Tanya M. Peres), trade in animal pelts in the early historic east (Chapter 37, Heather A. Lapman), animal use in the early colonial southeast (Chapter 38, Elizabeth J. Reitz), and the zooarchaeology of the Maya (Chapter 39, Kitty F. Emery). "Part VI: South America" covers Pre-Columbian faunal remains in northwestern South America (Chapter 40, Peter W. Stahl), Brazilian shell-mounds (Chapter 41, Daniela Klokler), camelid hunting and herding in the Incan empire (Chapter 42, Guillermo L. Mengoni Goñalons), and prehistoric exploitation of Patagonian habitats (Chapter 43, Luis A. Borrero).

The final part, Part VII, concentrates on Oceania. In general, the essays discuss prehistoric faunal remains from Melanesia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and the eastern Polynesian islands (i.e. the island east of Samoa). Following Part VII, there

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is “A Glossary of Zooarchaeological Methods,” which is geared toward non-specialists. Each entry contains a brief explanation of an analytical method commonly used by zooarchaeologists and is cross-referenced with the chapters that employ said method. For example, the entry on organic residue analysis (764) explains what the analysis is, how organic residue can be detected, and what it can tell us. It also notes that organic residue analysis is used in Chapters 6, 8, 14, 17, and 20.

Overall, the essays in this unprecedented volume are impressive in their scope and provide a global overview of the current state of the field. Although the target audience is primarily zooarchaeologists, the essays are accessible to non-specialists and common zooarchaeological terminology and methods are clarified in the methodological glossary. Indeed, scholars of the Greco-Roman world should take particular note of the subject matter discussed in the following chapters: Chapters 8 (animals in Late Bronze Age Greece), 9 (animal evidence reflecting lifestyle changes in Rome during the Iron Age/Roman transition), 17 (animal exploitation in Anatolia), 29 (animals in ancient Egyptian religion), and 30 (animals and their connections to acculturation and colonization in North Africa). In conclusion, this handbook—a much-needed synopsis of current advances in zooarchaeology—is a valuable compendium for any archaeologist interested in learning more about the ways in which the study of animals can contribute to our understanding of past societies.

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